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S E C R E T CAIRO 002091

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA AND INR/NESA
OSD FOR AGUIRRE
JCS FOR YODER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/23/2028
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: ACADEMICS SEE THE MILITARY IN DECLINE, BUT RETAINING STRONG INFLUENCE

REF: A. CAIRO 1851
[1](#)B. CAIRO 530
[1](#)C. CAIRO 524
[1](#)D. 07 CAIRO 1417

Classified By: DCM Matthew Tueller for reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Recently, academics and civilian analysts painted a portrait of an Egyptian military in intellectual and social decline, whose

An Institution in Decline

[1](#)2. (C) A series of recent conversations with academics and other civilian analysts reveals their sense that while Egypt's military is in decli

[1](#)3. (S) XXXXXXXXXXXX opined that before the 1967 war, military officers were "spoiled," and constituted a social elite. Following the military'
[1](#)4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX believes that the government's increasing opposition to dialogue with academia is symptomatic of its social and intellectu

... But Still Retaining Economic Clout For Now -----

[1](#)5. (C) Although analysts see a small number of regime and business elites exercising increasing political and economic control over the countr

[1](#)6. (C) Most analysts agreed that the military views the GOE's privatization efforts as a threat to its economic position, and therefore genera

Influence in the Bureaucracy and Civil Society -----

[1](#)7. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX pointed to a "concerted effort" from the "top of the regime" to penetrate the civilian bureaucracy with retired senior mil

The Military and Succession

[1](#)8. (C) Contacts agree that presidential son Gamal Mubarak's power base is centered in the business community, not with the military. XXXXXXXXXXX

[1](#)9. (S) Comment: The military still remains a potent political and economic force. Its recent interventions, using the MOD's considerable resou